

ALAS FOR ROMANCE

Off With the Mistress and On With the Cook, Said the Soldier Hero.

By JOHN PHILIP ORTH.

The roses were blooming, the birds singing, and the brook at the back end of the Traver's property was babbling away like a child just beginning to talk.

It was just the day for a young girl who hadn't anything particular to do, and who wanted to wonder what future years would bring her, to walk down to the brook and dump herself down in a heap in a shady spot.

Further up the brook, on other land, there had been a children's picnic the day before, and they had left the usual scatterings behind them. A part of a newspaper was slowly making its way over the grass under the motive power of the light breeze. Its course was erratic, and it had many a resting spell, but it was finally blown almost into the girl's lap.

Miss Ione's careless glance rested on the fragment for a moment, and then she gave a start of surprise and reached for it. She had read in bold-faced letters:

"Greatest knock-down sale of corsets ever held in North America since Columbus discovered it!"

There was nothing romantic about that. But that fragment of a yellow journal wasn't blown at a maiden's feet for bluff. Miss Ione read further:

"Owing to the sudden deaths of the six partners of this firm (all died happy), the elopement of the bookkeeper and the mysterious disappearance of the forelady and the shipping clerk, who may have died for love, we find it necessary to dispose of our large and mellow stock of corsets.

"Corsets from \$5 to \$200, according to the settings. We propose to dump them into one grand heap as large as a barn and give you your pick of the lot for just \$7. Sale begins Monday morning. There will be a fierce rush. Come early."

No romance yet, but Miss Ione needed a corset, and she would be at that sale if alive. She would also capture a \$200 one and defend it against other women with her life. She breathed hard as she thought of the struggle to get through the mob of factory girls and wives of millionaires, and while so doing she unconsciously turned the paper over in her hands. Ah, the romance at last!

"Correspondent Wanted. A soldier at a lonesome post in the far west wishes to correspond with some bright, educated young lady in the east. A sympathetic one preferred. I have neither mother nor sister, and long for cheering words. Am in hospital just at present after a fight with the Indians."

The sympathetic girl was told to address Claude M. DuPrey at a certain western post, and there were tears in Miss Ione's eyes as she finished reading.

The advertiser was an officer, of course—perhaps a colonel. He had gone bravely forth to do battle with the savage Redskins, and had been wounded. He didn't say he had, but why in the hospital, if not?

And there he was lying and suffering untold agonies, and there was no mother—no sister—to write him how sorry she was and hope he would soon be around again.

It was positively shameful of the government not to furnish his brave heroics in blue with mothers and sisters, and she would ask her father, who had a political pull, to see about it.

Write to the lonesome, wounded, suffering colonel? Of course she would. Next month or week? No, straight away within the hour. He wasn't going to suffer any longer than he would take a sympathetic letter to reach him, with "In Haste" written on the envelope in a bold hand. Within two hours the letter was in the mail box.

It was a letter to cheer a man that had been shot in the leg by a wicked Filipino, and was being fed cornmeal gruel by a heartless hospital nurse. No doubt it did cheer him, for he returned his grateful thanks at once, and the romance may be said to have fairly begun.

For weeks and months it was "Dear Colonel" and "Dear Friend." The letters were brotherly. They were also sisterly. They referred to lawn parties and golf in the east, and to the snakes and "sketeers" in the wild island which Uncle Sam chased the Spanish from, and then paid them twenty million dollars for going.

As the letters grew more sympathetic, they grew more loving. That was to be expected. They grew so loving that the little heroine wrote that if she truly loved a man she would marry him if he had a wooden leg. Her colonel had never told her that he had been wounded in the leg, but woman's intuition can always be trusted. And the brave man did not admit that he was "corking" it around and giving his absent leg an extension of furlough. After a year he wrote that he was about to leave the army and come east, and he would pay her an early call and ask her father an important question. This would have been a little ambiguous to a man, but it would set the heart of a girl of ten a-palpitating. With her little pen Miss Ione wrote the name on a stray bit of paper several times over—"Mrs. Claude M. DuPrey." It looked great to her. It looked forty

times greater than the name of Jones or Brown.

Then came the waiting—weeks of it. The government transports don't run Marathon races on the homeward voyages. No letters, no cablegrams—just waiting. Miss Ione had a mental picture of just how the colonel would look. He would be tall and stern and commanding. He would have a drooping mustache and dark eyes. He would limp on his cork leg, but it would be a limp that thousands of men would envy. Oh, she could not mistake the family butcher for her brave colonel.

As the date drew near when the lover might be expected, Miss Ione unwillingly accompanied her father and mother for a week's stay at the house of a relative, but word was left for the colonel in case he came, and come he did.

The family cook had not been in charge of the house but two days when the hero came walking down the highway from the depot. He still wore his uniform, and it was much the worse for wear. He was short and squat. He had no limp. He did not look stern nor commanding. His mustache didn't droop any more than the average hair brush.

"Well, what's wanted?" demanded the cook.

"Is Miss Ione at home?"

"She is not."

"Will she be soon?"

"She may and she may not."

Now the cook had a soft heart for a soldier, gruff as she was toward the plumber and painter, and as the colonel turned away with a sigh of disappointment, she melted and said:

"Might I offer you a light lunch?"

The colonel entered and lunched and visited for a couple of hours. It could also be said of the cook that she was fat and single, and had long had her eye out for a man. The colonel praised her cooking, her looks. She praised his bravery. She had \$200 saved up, and he had a little more. He was thinking of a little chicken ranch, and she looked to him just like a woman that just doted on chickens.

Thus it came about that when Miss Ione reached home, which was one day ahead of her parents, she found a stranger smoking his pipe on the veranda, and the smiling cook ready to explain:

"This is Tom Rogers, just out of the Philippine army, and we are to be married in two weeks."

"I think you are the girl I corresponded with," observed Tom—as he took his pipe from his mouth.

"You can't be Colonel DuPrey."

"There is no such colonel."

"But he wrote me."

"It was me."

"But—but—"

"That is, I hired the bugler to write for me!"

"And you haven't got a cork leg?"

"Not on your life!"

"Would I be marrying him if he had?" demanded the cook with considerable asperity.

"But you were in the hospital," said the persistent girl.

"So I was, but not with a bullet in my leg. I was laid up with a rat-bite."

"And so—so—?"

"And as I am going into the chicken-raising, and as you don't look like a girl that would take kindly to chickens, and as the cook here do, why—why, it's off with you and on with her. No hard feelings, I hope, but I was cussed lonesome away off there!"

Poor Ione wept all night, but she had gained a lasting experience.

(Copyright, 1913, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

MRS. FISKE'S RIVAL ADMIRERS

Frohmans and Belascos Both Left the Theater With Same Purpose in View.

One of Mrs. Fiske's favorite stories goes back to the days when neither she nor David Belasco nor Charles Frohman were as celebrated as they are now, although, secretly, all three of them probably had no doubts of what was going to happen. Even in the earliest days Mr. Belasco was a keen and quite unreticent admirer of Mrs. Fiske, who was then Minnie Maddern. In this enthusiasm he had a warm but friendly rival in Mr. Frohman. When Miss Maddern appeared as Chip in "Foggy Ferry" at the old Park theater her two admirers were naturally among the foremost leaders of the applause. Before the end of the play, however, Mr. Belasco excused himself, pleading an urgent engagement.

"Well, Dave, I'm glad you've got a date," said Mr. Frohman, "because I've got one, too." "All right, Charlie—see you tomorrow," said Mr. Belasco. And they parted outside the theater. Mr. Belasco immediately hurried to a florist's, where he squandered the greater part of ten dollars—all he then possessed in the world—on a huge bouquet. It was the day of the old-fashioned "bokay," shaped like a large cabbage with an enormous stalk, an island of flowers entirely surrounded by ferns and frilly paper. Armed with this he hurried to the stage door of the old Park theater. The first person he met was Charles Frohman. Mr. Belasco promptly thrust his "bokay" behind his back and hastily engaged in light conversation. Presently he noticed that Mr. Frohman also was apparently suffering from a disability of the left arm, which he held behind his back. When they gained admittance to Minnie Maddern's dressing room it finally came out that each of the rivals had left the theater with the same purpose. That was in—never mind the date.

STATE ASSEMBLY HAPPENINGS

BUSINESS IS IN FULL SWING AT JEFFERSON CITY.

Both Branches of State Legislature Get Down to Business—Many Bills Introduced.

Missouri now purposes to take up the condition of the women and girl workers in the factories of the state and establish a minimum wage below which they shall not be paid.

Representative John M. Kennedy of Kansas City has introduced the Minimum Wage bill. It establishes a minimum wage commission of three members who are to receive \$2,500 a year and traveling expenses. That commission is given powers to inquire into the condition of any women workers. They are to take them up factory by factory and store by store. A penalty is provided for any employers withholding information from the commission. In case the commission finds the girls or women of any trade or any one city are underpaid it will appoint a wage board, three from the women employees, three from the employers and the seventh from the "public."

The wage board will hear testimony the commission may present. It also will take new testimony and make personal investigation of the condition of the workers. If two-thirds of the wage board recommend to the commission the establishment of a minimum wage in that line of employment the commission may order it on sixty days' notice. If the wage board divides upon the figures of a minimum wage the commission will lay the facts before the next legislature with a recommendation that a minimum wage be or be not established.

Senator Busby introduced the administration bill upon which is based the peace pact between Governor Major and Railroad Commissioners Knott and Bradshaw, abolishing the railroad and warehouse commission and in its stead creating the office of state warehouse commissioner who shall have charge of the inspection and weighing of grain and fixing the salary at \$4,500 per year. The same bill was introduced in the house by Phelps of Jasper, who handles an administration bill in that body. Under the peace agreement all hands are to support the utilities commission bill which is to be amended so that it will consist of five instead of three members and the present members of the railway commission are to be members of it, unless one of the Democrats prefers to take the place of the state warehouse commissioner.

Johnson of Pulaski introduced a concurrent resolution calling for a constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of \$10,000,000 of state bonds for the purpose of building good roads. The novel feature of the proposition is that it provides for a division of the money arising from the sale of the bonds on a basis of "surface area." Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Joplin, Springfield and other cities, which provide more than 50 per cent of the taxes of the state, would get the short end of such a division, while counties like Texas, Shannon, Pulaski and other counties of large area and small property valuation would be benefited largely.

The Gardiner telephone rate bill introduced in the senate would prescribe the following schedule of rates for all telephone companies operating in Missouri: On the basis of a three-minute talk, the scale for the first ten miles is 10 cents; one-half a cent per mile for the next ninety miles, and one-third of a cent per mile for each mile in excess of 100. For each additional minute over three minutes charges to be made on the basis of one-fourth of a cent per mile. A charge of 5 cents is allowed for transferring messages and a double charge for repeating messages.

The first bill passed by the senate was the Hull House Bill amending the motor car law of 1911. One amendment reduces the rate of dealers' licenses from \$16 to \$10 a year and another adds a new section imposing a fine of \$500 and possible imprisonment for anyone taking and using a motor car without permission of the owner. The bill also provides for adding two motor car clerks to the department under the secretary of state for such time as they may be needed. Senator White of Linn alone voted against the bill.

Two bills out of the ordinary were introduced in the house. One by Representative Fluty of Newton, prohibits the sale and manufacture of cigarettes under penalty of \$500 fine or six months in jail. The other by Representative Melvin of Schuyler, provides a fine of \$500 or a jail sentence.

President Pro Tem. Wilson of the senate appointed Senator Hawkins of Dunklin, Senator Casey of Kansas City and Senator Gardner of St. Louis county a special committee to take up the matter of convict labor at the penitentiary and report to the senate not later than February 10.

Senator Ford wants the adoption of the Torrens system of recording deeds to reality. Senator White wants all incorporated cities created special road districts and his bill would make them such.

for members of the national guard who absent themselves from drill without consent of the ranking officer of their company.

A bill making some changes in the laws governing the inspection of coal oil and other oils was introduced in the senate by Senator Busby. It adds two deputy inspectors, making eight, a chief inspector and makes provision for one of the inspectors being a chemist. The salaries of the deputies are increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year and the term of the state inspector is fixed at four years.

Secretary of State Roach has appointed James J. McIntyre of Kansas City corporation clerk in his department, vice William J. Kiley, who has been appointed deputy state beer inspector. The secretary also appointed the following new clerks in the motor car department: E. J. Sanders, St. Joseph; George O. Lamb, Caruthersville; C. C. Reddington, Springfield.

Joseph G. Dillard of Sedalia, state hotel inspector, has assumed the duties of his office. He is allowed four deputies, each at \$100 a month and necessary traveling expenses. His deputies are: Howard Bradbury, Jefferson City; Edward Major, Bowling Green; J. W. Baldwin, Jr., Sedalia; Claude Buchanan, Marceline.

With two sessions there was little of interest in the senate. Senator Wilson introduced a bill which if it should become a law will make railroad travel in Missouri slow enough to please even the most timid tourist. His bill provides that all passenger trains must stop at grade crossings.

The Wilson bill, providing for the abolition of the state capitol commission, was reported favorably by a senate committee. Senator Wilson proposes to abolish the jobs and the salary attached to them altogether and let the present state officers oversee the building of the new capitol.

The "drys" expect to caucus and decide what attitude they will take toward home rule. Some of the members who will vote "dry" on every other proposition want to vote for home rule now that St. Louis has agreed to the amendment providing for removal by the governor.

The house put in a long afternoon engrossing bills and cleaning up its docket generally. With but two dissenting votes it passed a joint and concurrent resolution authorizing the board of fund commissioners to pay a commission for the sale of the capitol building bonds.

Representative Wright of Greene county introduced a bill providing for provisional divorces. It is planned to stop hasty remarriages. The bill gives the court power to make the divorce provisional for one year. Any time in that year it can, for a cause, revoke the divorce.

The house criminal jurisprudence committee killed beyond hope of resurrection, for this session at least, the Haskins bill prohibiting Sunday baseball. The committee was against the measure to a man and reported that the bill should be stricken from the calendar.

The "wet" and "dry" leaders of the house agreed to set a special hearing for the County Unit bill. The rollcall on its passage will determine definitely the lineup of the house, whether it is "wet" or "dry." The vote on the other liquor bills will not vary far from that on the County Unit bill.

The bill giving to the commissioners of the 8-mile good roads districts the expenditure of all the money collected by the county by taxation for road purposes within the district was considered Friday. It was sent to engrossment. The house then adjourned until 2 o'clock Monday afternoon.

Senator Bronson introduced a bill making stock yards public service corporations and equally subject to regulation. The senator said that if the Major Utility Bill became a law there would be no occasion for his bill receiving consideration.

The house passed a joint and concurrent resolution appropriating \$143,000 to pay the commission necessary to make possible the sale of the state capitol bonds. There were five dissenting votes.

The senate committee on labor reported unanimously for passing the Kinney bill, extending the nine-hour labor law for women to all occupations except housework.

Senator Casey introduced a bill prohibiting the use of coloring matter in the manufacture of oleomargarine to make it resemble butter.

Senator White introduced a bill amending the marriage laws so as to require marriages to be solemnized in the county or city where the license is obtained, and requiring those who solemnize marriages to officially report the same within ten days.

The following committee of senators was appointed to prepare suitable memorial services in commemoration of the late Senator Thomas E. Kinney of St. Louis. Allee, Whitledge, Cates, Cassidy, Brogan, Foster and Welch.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS

Missouri Horse Racers Meet.

Fifteen Missouri fairs were represented at a meeting recently held in Mexico. The purpose of the meeting was to arrange one or more racing circuits through North Missouri and to take up the question of legislation affecting county fairs in the state. The Missouri Short-Ship Circuit was organized with Dr. A. R. McComas, Sturgeon, president; W. W. D. Lee, Mexico, vice-president; M. F. Atkinson, Mexico, secretary-treasurer. The following dates were assigned: New London, July 29 to August 1; Bowling Green, August 5 to 9; Mexico, August 12 to 16; Sturgeon, August 19 to 23; Independence, August 26 to 30. The Grand Western Circuit was organized with A. C. Dingle of Moberly, president, and Gus Gannon, Brookfield, secretary-treasurer. The following dates were announced: Brookfield, July 15 to 19; Chillicothe, July 22 to 26; Moberly, July 29 to August 1; Columbia, August 5 to 9; Marshall, August 12 to 16; Higginsville, August 19 to 23. An organization to be known as the Missouri Fair Bureau was completed with Dr. A. R. McComas, Sturgeon, president, and Rufus Jackson, Mexico, secretary.

Founder Gives Up College.

Mrs. V. A. C. Stockard, who founded and for thirty years has been president and owner of Cotley College for Young Women at Nevada, has decided, free the entire institution, without reservation of any kind, to a board of trustees. Unincumbered property worth \$200,000 is conveyed. The trustees are F. H. Glenn, Dr. J. F. Robinson, E. T. Letton, Dr. I. W. Amerman, Charles Thom and J. M. Hull, all citizens of Nevada, and the Rev. W. T. McClurg of Kansas City, the Rev. Joseph King, the Rev. J. E. Alexander and the Rev. P. M. Burton, all ministers of the Southern Methodist church. There are about 300 students of the college, representing nearly every Missouri county and nearly every Western state. The trustees will at once start a movement for an endowment for the college. The understanding is that Mrs. Stockard will be president as long as she lives or cares to be, though that is left to the option of the trustees.

Rock Highway Is Planned.

A movement to build a rock road from Linn Creek to Lebanon was launched at the organization of a commercial club at Linn Creek. Col. R. J. Scott was elected president, Asa Farmer, secretary, and J. M. Vincent, treasurer. A conference with Lebanon business men will be held soon, when details of the roadway will be worked out. The proposed highway will be thirty-three miles long. An auto truck service is to be installed.

Strikes Lead Near Newburg.

While drilling a well on his farm, three-fourths of a mile northeast of Newburg, Phelps county, William Strawn had a strike of lead and zinc. At a depth of 82 feet he struck ore, and his cuttings showed a fine quality of lead and zinc to the 87-foot depth. From the 87 feet depth to 94 feet it was dead dirt, but from 94 feet to 103 feet in the well the cuttings showed a rich strike of lead and zinc.

A Ferryman Drowned at Nodaway.

The body of Joseph Mooney, 54 years old, a ferryman, missing since Thanksgiving, has been found in the Missouri river. Whether he committed suicide or was accidentally drowned is not known.

Missourian Acquitted of Murder.

William O. Bowen of De Kalb, Mo., who shot and killed J. Wilbur Thomas in South St. Joseph October 26, 1912, was found not guilty by a jury there. He said he shot in self-defense.

Pedestrians Escape Falling Beam.

A 7-foot steel beam fell from the eighteenth floor of the Railway Exchange building at St. Louis, striking the pavement at Olive and Seventh streets, a corner at which many passengers take street cars. No one was in its path, though scores were in the immediate vicinity. The beam was shattered.

Missouri Farm Brings \$98,200.

One of the largest land deals ever negotiated between Illinois and Missouri landowners was closed when Jack Harrison of Auxvasse sold the Thomas Harrison farm, east of Auxvasse, containing 982 acres, to Bell Brothers of Rochester, Ill., for \$100 an acre, almost \$100,000.

Boy Gang Robbed Box Cars.

Following the arrest at Nevada of ten boys, ranging in age from 14 years to manhood, the police announced that they had broken up an organized gang of freight car thieves. The police say the boys had been reading dime novels and were trying to emulate the characters described in the stories.

Was Once a Power in Politics.

Michael K. McGrath, secretary of state of Missouri from 1876 to 1889, and present member of the legislature from St. Louis, died recently in St. Louis. For half a century he had been prominently identified with the Democratic party in Missouri. He was 77 years old.

Women's Band May Play for "Suffra."

The women's band of Maryville has been extended an invitation to take part in the suffragette parade in Washington, D. C., on March 2.

THE INCOME TAX IS SURE NOW

Thirty-Eight States Have Now Ratified Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

Washington, D. C.—Direct taxes upon the incomes of citizens of the United States, whether derived from idle capital or from the conduct of business, were made possible by the ratification of the sixteenth amendment to the federal constitution, Delaware, Wyoming and New Mexico endorsing the income tax amendment through their respective legislatures, completing a list of thirty-eight states which have approved it, two more than the three-fourths necessary for its final adoption.

Leaders in congress predicted that through this authorization, the law which will be passed to levy the tax upon American incomes will be introduced as soon as the extra session opens. Its exact terms have not been decided upon, but it is believed it will exempt all incomes below \$1,000 or \$5,000, and will provide a tax of 1 per cent upon the majority of personal incomes that do not run to an excessive figure.

WOMEN PATIENTS DIE BY FIRE

Two Inmates of Kansas City Sanitarium Set Fire to Bed Clothes—Suicide Pact.

Kansas City.—Two women died by setting fire to the bed clothing in their room in Dr. S. Grover Burnett's sanitarium, Thirty-first street and Euclid avenue. Mrs. David Hopkins, 38 years old, of Denver, was burned to death and Miss Mary Kitchen, 37 years old, of Pawnee, Okla., "was so severely burned that she died. The women had entered a suicide pact, the physicians in charge of the sanitarium say.

Dr. J. Elliott Royer, one of the sanitarium physicians, and Miss Mary Elston, a nurse, were aroused about 4:30 o'clock by screams from the second floor. They found smoke coming from around the door and forced it open. The women had moved the bed against the door. When the women were found, Mrs. Hopkins was dead and Miss Kitchen was dying.

MURDER IN A POLITICAL ROW

Interpreter in the Republican-Socialist Contest in Crawford County, Kan., Slain.

Pittsburg, Kan.—Miss Emma Stanton, cashier in a store at Dunkirk, saw a form lying on the ground almost concealed by the heavy snow a short distance from Dunkirk. An investigation disclosed the body of Sam Reed of Pittsburg, interpreter for the contest courts in the recent Republican-Socialist hearings at Girard.

He had been shot six times. The same snow that covered his body also hid the tracks of his slayer. The murder was committed in the night, Reed having been seen about midnight as he left a dance. The officers have no clew. An inquest probably will be held in the morning.

A TRAIN AMBUSHED BY REBELS

The Men Were Shot Down and the Women Were Taken Captive by Zapata Followers.

The City of Mexico.—Rebel followers of General Zapata attacked a passenger train going from the City of Mexico to Ozuama, forty-five miles south of the capital city, killing or wounding all the twenty soldiers in the train's escort. Four men passengers were killed and many of the women passengers were carried off by the rebels.

ASK WICKERSHAM TO EXPLAIN

The Holding Up of Warrants for Standard Oil Heads Taken to Congress.

Washington.—A resolution ordering Attorney General Wickersham to turn over to Congress all official correspondence relative to his order staying the serving of warrants returned by the Texas federal court against Henry C. Folger, W. C. Teagle and John D. Archbold was filed by Representative Garner of Texas. The resolution was referred to the judiciary committee.

A \$125,000 Fire at Kansas City.

Kansas City.—Fire, which seemed to flash from almost every portion of an old six-story brick structure, being remodeled for the Kansas City Wholesale Grocery Company, completely destroyed the building. The total loss to the grocery company and adjacent West Bottom firms it is estimated will exceed \$125,000.

Oppose Big Oil Land Leases.

Tulsa, Ok.—A meeting of oil producers was held here to protest against that clause of the new Osage lease regulations which authorizes a maximum holding of 25,000 acres in the Osage territory, consisting of 780,000 acres, which will be offered for lease.

Peace With Rumania Near?

Bucharest, Rumania.—A diplomatic indiscretion has revealed a protocol between Rumania and Bulgaria recently signed at London.